AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system, comprising:

a blood pressure monitor;

a blood pressure cuff pneumatically connected to said blood pressure monitor;

a deflation valve connected intermediate said blood pressure monitor and said blood pressure cuff; and

a controller for automatically controlling the non-invasive blood pressure ~~monitoring~~ monitor.

2. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 1, wherein:

said deflation valve comprises a manually operated deflation valve.

3. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 2, further comprising:

a monitor hose pneumatically connecting said blood pressure monitor to said deflation valve; and

a cuff hose pneumatically connecting said deflation valve to said blood pressure cuff.

4. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 3, wherein:

said monitor hose and said cuff hose are detachably connected to said deflation valve.

5. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 4, wherein said deflation valve further comprises:

a valve body;

a monitor port at a first end of said valve body for receiving said monitor hose;

a cuff port at a second end of said valve body for receiving said cuff hose; and

an air channel intermediate said monitor port and said cuff port, wherein said air channel comprises a sealable exhaust port for exhausting air from said air channel to ambient.

6. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 5, wherein said deflation valve further comprises:

an actuator assembly in operable communication with said sealable exhaust port;

an exhaust port seal disposed proximate said sealable exhaust port, said exhaust port seal being responsive to said actuator assembly;

a bias spring disposed within said valve body for biasing said actuator assembly in a first direction; and

said sealable exhaust port being sealed when said actuator assembly is biased in said first direction and unsealed when said actuator assembly is biased in a second direction.

7. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 6, wherein said actuator assembly further comprises:

an actuator;

a seal carrier for supporting said exhaust port seal; and

a link disposed intermediate said actuator and said seal carrier for communicating a force between said actuator and said seal carrier.

8. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 6, wherein said actuator assembly comprises a push-button actuator disposed within said valve body for one-hand operation of said deflation valve by an operator.

9. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 7, wherein said bias spring is disposed proximate said seal carrier for biasing said exhaust port seal in said first direction.

10. (currently amended) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 1, further comprising:

an automatic blood pressure monitor comprising said blood pressure monitor and said controller integrally arranged as a single unit.

11-20. (canceled)

21. (new) An automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system, comprising:

a blood pressure monitor;

a blood pressure cuff pneumatically connected to said blood pressure monitor;

a manually operable deflation valve serially connected intermediate said blood pressure monitor and said blood pressure cuff such that said blood pressure cuff is in direct pneumatic communication with said blood pressure monitor via said serially connected deflation valve; and

a controller for automatically controlling the non-invasive blood pressure monitor.

22. (new) The system of Claim 21, wherein:

said deflation valve is configured for single-handed rapid deflation of said blood pressure cuff.

23. (new) The system of Claim 22, wherein:

said controller and said blood pressure monitor are integrally arranged as a single unit.

24. (new) A method for automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring of a patient, comprising:

administering a blood pressure cuff to the patient;

automatically monitoring the blood pressure of the patient using the blood pressure cuff and an automatic blood pressure monitor; and

actuating a manual deflation valve to rapidly deflate the blood pressure cuff for removal of the blood pressure cuff from the patient after completion of the blood pressure monitoring, the manual deflation valve being serially connected between the blood pressure monitor and the blood pressure cuff such that the blood pressure cuff is in direct pneumatic communication with the blood pressure monitor via the serially connected manual deflation valve, the rapid deflation of the blood pressure cuff being possible by single-handed operation of the manual deflation valve.